

July 14, 2004

The Honorable Robert Bunda, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 003
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

Re: Senate Bill No. 2716, S.D.1, H.D.2, C.D.1

On July 13, 2004, Senate Bill No. 2716, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Education" became law without my signature, pursuant to section 16 of article III of the State Constitution.

This bill establishes a higher education statutory analysis interim study group to review existing state laws and recommend which statutes may be consolidated, amended, or repealed. I support the general intent of this bill to improve the organizational framework of the State's higher education statutes and, therefore, allowed the bill to become law.

However, I did not sign the bill because I am concerned that this bill's mandate comes at a time when the University is dealing with other pressing issues. Convening a study group that includes the University's president or his designee is not the best use of the University's limited resources given the many other important issues facing the University, including addressing maintenance needs of the existing infrastructure, the demand for adequate student housing and necessary courses, and updating the University's financial plan. Furthermore, the bill provides no resources for conducting the study and requires that the work be completed prior to the start of the next legislative session. There is current statutory authority for the University to undertake this work at a later date, making this measure unnecessary. Finally, the composition of the study group fails to include representation from the Executive Branch even though its work could have significant implications on executive branch operations.

Therefore, I allowed Senate Bill No. 2716, S.D.1, H.D.2, C.D.1 to become law as Act 226, effective July 13, 2004, without my signature.

Sincerely,

LINDA LINGLE